

HAK

SCOWCROFT

L.L.

KOSYGIN REPORTEDLY  
EN ROUTE TO DAMASCUS

FBIS 60 (OUT OF SEQUENCE)

KOSYGIN REPORTEDLY VISITING SYRIA

L191230 BELGRADE TANJUG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN SERBO-CROATIAN  
1046 GMT 19 OCT 73 L

(EXCERPTS) CAIRO--AFTER A 3-DAY STAY IN CAIRO, WHICH WAS  
OFFICIALLY HELD IN SECRECY ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN "UNOFFICIALLY,"  
SOVIET PREMIER ALEKSEY KOSYGIN LEFT CAIRO LATE LAST NIGHT  
AFTER SEVERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AL-SADAT AND OTHER EGYPTIAN  
LEADERS. IT IS ASSUMED THE HIGH SOVIET GUEST LEFT FROM HERE BY  
AIR FOR DAMASCUS FOR TALKS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD.

19 OCT 1242Z PK/JZ

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RNR64

MIDEAST-SOVIET

MOSCOW, OCT 19, REUTER -- SOVIET OFFICIALS REMAINED  
SILENT TODAY ON THE MOVEMENTS OF PRIME MINISTER ALEXEI KOSYGIN AS  
SPECULATION GREW THAT HE MAY HAVE GONE FROM CAIRO TO  
DAMASCUS OR BAGHDAD.

THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN THAT KOSYGIN HAS ARRIVED  
BACK IN MOSCOW AFTER HIS THREE LONG MEETINGS WITH  
PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT IN CAIRO, AND DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HERE  
SPECULATED THAT HE MAY HAVE GONE ON TO ANOTHER ARAB CAPITAL.

SYRIA IS THE OTHER MAJOR ARAB PARTICIPANT IN THE PRESENT  
WAR, BUT DAMASCUS, ITS CAPITAL, HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED BY  
ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND MAY BE REGARDED AS TOO CLOSE TO THE  
FIGHTING ZONE FOR A VISIT BY THE SOVIET LEADER.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE OBSERVERS SAID, KOSYGIN COULD  
HAVE GONE TO BAGHDAD WHERE HE COULD BE MEETING BOTH  
SYRIAN AND IRAQI LEADERS. IRAQ HAS UNITS FIGHTING WITH SYRIAN  
FORCES AGAINST THE ISRAELIS.

KOSYGIN IS REPORTED IN CAIRO TO HAVE FLOWN IN ON  
TUESDAY EVENING AND HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH  
SADAT BEFORE LEAVING YESTERDAY FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION.  
REUTER LFT/HG 0820